



STATE OF IOWA

TERRY E. BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR
KIM REYNOLDS, LT. GOVERNOR

STEM ADVISORY COUNCIL BROADBAND COMMITTEE

Co-Chair John Carver, Superintendent, Howard-Winneshiek Community School District
Co-Chair Robert von Wolfradt, Chief Information Officer, State of Iowa
Amy Kuhlert, Program Manager, Connect Iowa
Robert Denson, President, Des Moines Area Community College
Dave Duncan, President, Iowa Telecommunication Association
Philip Groner, Iowa Communication Network
Karl Hehr, Director of Technology Services, Ames Community Schools District
Galen Howsare, Chief Financial Officer, Iowa Association of School Boards
Karen Randall, Keystone Area Education Association
Michael Sadler, Assistant VP for Public Policy
Larry Siegel, Iowa School Finance and Information System Services
Jeff Weld, Executive Director, Governor's STEM Advisory Council
Josh Byrnes, State Representative, District 14
Steven Soddors, State Senator, District 36

September 19, 2013

The STEM Advisory Council Broadband Committee is soliciting input from stakeholders all across Iowa who can offer insights into the unique broadband challenges facing the state, as well as provide thoughts on possible solutions. This input will help enhance efforts in developing effective policy recommendations to expand broadband access, adoption and use for all Iowans.

To offer comments, please address the questions below. All responses are considered public information, so please do not include confidential information in your response.

Name: Mike Litterer, Assistant General Manager
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- I. What barriers or other issues can you identify that may impede the increase of broadband access, adoption and use across the state? *The cost of installing high speed (fiber) access to all customers including rural areas which in some areas are wireless access only is the major hurdle. The current providers in our area do not provide high speed access to rural customers.*
- II. If you had to choose one *primary* barrier, what would that be? *The availability of money to fund the installation of high speed access.*
- III. What recommendations do you have to overcome these barriers? *Grants and/or zero interest loans to fund the installation would be a great help, it is difficult to come up with enough funds for the initial installation.*
- IV. What are your expectations for future access needs? *High Speed broadband is a necessity just as roads and railways are for economic development in Iowa. In order for Iowa to continue to grow and expand we need to provide high speed broadband to all businesses, industry, commercial and residential customers in Iowa. All customers will demand it in the near future.*



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- V. Other comments? *I believe fiber is the best model for a future that can provide high speed access for the next 20-30 years. The biggest hurdle is funding. I urge the council to establish low cost funding for municipal or other entities that can provide fiber to the home for both urban and rural customers and businesses across Iowa.*